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FIRST



GRAIN GROWERS'
SUNDAY
OF THE
Saskatchewan
Grain Growers' Association

MAY 27, 1917

Progress

WE must expand our thoughts so as to cope with a perpetually changing process. Since the world changes, our "truths" must change to fit it. We are faced with the necessity of a continuous reconstruction of our beliefs. That truth has most value to us which we work out for ourselves; or which we have, by our own thinking, become prepared to receive. The best seed can only have a good growth when it falls into "good ground"—a well prepared seed bed.

PAMPHLET NO. 16.

Lender Pub. Co., Regina, Sask.



THE AIM OF THE SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

On this our FIRST GRAIN GROWERS' SUNDAY it is considered worth while to announce the aims, purposes, and programme of the Organized Farmers' Movement. While we have given our thought and devoted our energies largely to the problems which come home to us as farmers, we are not unmindful of our relationship to the people of the Towns and Cities. We do not expect to solve our own problems without considering at the same time the needs of all members of society; neither do we seek to remedy our condition by depriving others of the world's workers of the just fruits of their toil. But, on the contrary, we are demanding such a regulation of the conduct of all individuals and corporations, and such a distribution of the Government Taxes as will secure an equal opportunity—a fair chance—to all men and women in all legitimate occupations. We want "EQUITY"—A SQUARE DEAL—for ourselves, and what we want for ourselves we are desirous of securing for all others as well.

PURPOSE AND VISION

In its vigorous and prolonged struggle for economic reform, THE SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION has been truly an influence for moral uplift and social betterment. The building of a nobler citizenship, a higher and better manhood and womanhood, has always been the ultimate purpose of our movement. We have never laid claim to being a religious organization, but we are glad that the leaders of our country have come to recognize the tremendous significance of our great movement. These men understand that no religious organization which fails to strive for the establishment of right economic and social conditions can ever be fully successful. They recognize also that no movement which is struggling for economic "EQUITY," for true CO-OPERATION, for proper HOME ENVIRONMENT, and for ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, as our Association is doing, can fail to be a real factor in the establishment of GOD'S KINGDOM upon earth.

It has frequently been true that people have "builded better than they knew" and that they themselves have not realized the value of their work nor its meaning in relation to character development. We feel sure that a large number of our members do not yet understand the true significance of what we are doing. It is our hope, therefore, that on this GRAIN GROWERS' SUNDAY some Prophets or Seers will speak to us and reveal the deep spiritual meaning of that which many have not had the eyes to see."

WE MUST GET DOWN TO EARTH

Life is a very real thing to the farmer, and his thoughts are chiefly given to the actual world in which he lives. However, the problems which command the attention of our Association involve everything that concerns the mental, moral, and material well-being of all our people. Our activities have been essentially educational; for before we could prescribe remedies, it was necessary that we should understand the problems involved. But the farmer is not long satisfied to deal only with theories and ideals and the mere preaching of reform. He insists on finding a way to put into practice that which he believes to be true and practicable.

We have learned that to be good farmers means more than to raise wheat and other farm produce. We must also market these products and purchase our supplies to the best advantage. In these trading activities we have found great advantage in the fullest co-operation, and so we have developed our organization along these lines. Since no farmer can successfully fight his own battle single handed, we are gradually getting closer together, and becoming more fully united. But let us understand that the Farmers' Movement stands for something larger than co-operation in buying and

selling and similar activities. It stands first of all for the recognition of the universal brotherhood of all men, and for the principle that the rights and privileges of all members of society must be balanced and safeguarded on the basis of EQUITY and JUSTICE. Our slogan is: "EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE."

THE FARMERS' PROGRAMME

Our farmers as citizens of Canada are interested in everything that will promote the general welfare of the nation. The Platform adopted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture is one which we believe will be just as beneficial to the people of the cities and towns and to organized labourers, as to the people on the farms of Canada. The farmers hope for the support of all good citizens in getting their Platform enacted into legislation. The Platform has been endorsed by a large number of our Locals, and was first adopted at a meeting attended by the Presidents and Executive Officers of the Farmers' Organizations of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, representing over 60,000 farmers. The following is a brief summary of its main provisions:

1. Free Trade with Great Britain.
2. That all foodstuffs and agricultural implements, etc., not included in the Reciprocity Agreement with the United States be placed on the free list.
3. That customs tariffs on all necessities of life be reduced.
4. A direct tax on all unimproved land values and natural resources.
5. A sharply graduated income tax upon all incomes over \$4,000 per year.
6. A heavy graduated inheritance tax on all large estates.
7. A graduated income tax on the profits of corporations over 10 per cent.
8. The nationalization of all railway, telegraph, and express companies.
9. Direct legislation, including the initiative and referendum and the right of recall.
10. Publicity of campaign funds and expenses both before and after elections.
11. The abolition of the patronage system.
12. Full Provincial Autonomy in liquor legislation, including manufacture, export, and import.
13. That the extension of the franchise to women in any province shall automatically admit them to the Federal franchise.

All who will help us to carry out the principles of this platform will be welcomed to our ranks, no matter what their occupation. We are not seeking to establish a Farmers' Party, but to secure the enactment of those measures which we believe are for the general good. As we are not working in the interests of partisan politics, we do not hesitate to announce our platform on Grain Growers' Sunday.

We trust that all the messages proclaimed by our speakers on this day will breathe the spirit of helpfulness, brotherhood, co-operation, tolerance, liberty, and social justice. We believe that such a message and such a spirit is in entire harmony with the genius and ideals of our organization.

For our leaflet entitled "The Romance of the Grain Growers' of Saskatchewan," giving its "History, Aims and Objects," or for any further information regarding the Farmers' Movement, apply to

THE CENTRAL OFFICE,
SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
Farmers' Building, Regina, Sask.

OUR GIFTS TO THE EMPIRE

The entire contributions made by our members for patriotic purposes amount to about \$200,000. This includes 84,462 bushels of wheat realized from the Patriotic Acre scheme. In August, 1916, we sent a trainload of flour as a free gift of our farmers to the cause of the Allies. The above is a photograph of this train conveying the flour to the seaboard *en route* for France. There were forty-one carloads of this flour, amounting to 3,200,000 pounds.

In addition to this gift a grant of \$2,000 was recently made to the British Sailors' Relief Fund. The balance of the Patriotic Acre Fund is being devoted to those patriotic causes decided upon by our Executive Board. Also, in addition to this Patriotic Acre Fund, our locals have contributed during the last sixteen months \$6,543 for Red Cross work, \$2,678 for Belgian Relief, and \$1,235 for other patriotic purposes.

Contributions to these various funds are coming in to our Central Office constantly, and we are glad to receive and forward them and keep careful account of same without making any charge for such service. Full information as to any of these funds will be cheerfully furnished on request. We shall be glad to have the Red Cross funds contributed on Grain Growers' Sunday, forwarded to us, or at least a statement of the amount should be sent to our Central Office.

The strong appeal of these patriotic causes should stir us more deeply than ever before. Since the need is increasingly great, we should enlarge our hearts and increase our gifts. Let us not only "do our bit" but do our *share*. We can all do better than we have yet done, and the great need must be met.

Address Patriotic Funds Department,

SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION,

Farmers' Building,

Regina, Saskatchewan